



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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It is our pleasure to present you with the proposed management course for the Peshtigo River State Forest (PRSF). This document – known as the *Preferred Alternative and Options*– outlines general proposals for management in recreation, land management, and boundary expansion. This document was created by an interdisciplinary team of land managers, resource specialists, property staff, and state forest planners.

It is clear that both the Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the general public care about the management of the PRSF. By tapping into the strengths of regional and statewide team members, compiling the best available biotic and demographic information, and listening to a variety of perspectives, the Master Planning Team has designed a management path that addresses public concerns while meeting the property's unique vision and goals. Though WDNR staff play a large role in the production of the Master Plan, public input is key to a viable and successful plan.

The vision for the Preferred Alternative comes from the planning process that has led up to this document. Earlier this year, the WDNR developed a range of alternatives for management of the PRSF. On recreation issues, we have listened to folks from all over northeastern Wisconsin – as well as enthusiasts who travel hundreds of miles to enjoy the area's natural wonders – who say they are mostly satisfied with the current level of recreation on the PRSF. They especially like the water-based opportunities that the Peshtigo River and its flowages provide. Even so, there is a desire to make the PRSF even better. Along with ideas from internal partners and local land managers, the public has expressed an interest in additional amenities like a horse campground. The Preferred Alternative generally maintains current public uses and access points, while providing for new developments like expanded camping opportunities, improved boat landings, and hiking, biking, and cross-country ski trails. As you will see in the pages to follow, a number of exciting developments have been proposed.

On land management issues, we heard many different opinions and concerns. The Preferred Alternative would continue to provide a range of benefits while establishing Native Community Management Areas and Forest Production Areas. These designations will ensure that special plants, animals, and natural communities will be protected, while allowing for timber harvest operations in other parts of the forest.

On boundary expansion issues, the Preferred Alternative incorporates additional lands to promote ecological values and allow for a greatly expanded trail system.

Our next step is to develop a detailed Draft Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Some proposals in the Preferred Alternative may be changed in the Draft Master Plan to add further analysis and/or public input.

Please take the time to read this document and send in your comments. We welcome your feedback. Please send letters, emails, or other comments on the Preferred Alternative **by Friday, November 3rd 2006** to:

Dan Mertz, PRSF State Forest Superintendent
N10008 Paust Lane
Crivitz, WI 54114
dan.mertz@dnr.state.wi.us

Or you may comment via our PRSF Master Plan website:

http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/ttsp_pesh/

Lastly, you are invited to one of three **Open House Public Meetings on the PRSF Preferred Alternative and Options**:

Tuesday October 17, 2006, 3-8pm
Stephenson Town Hall
W11280 County Road X
Crivitz, WI 54114-8004

Wednesday October 18, 2006, 3-8pm
WDNR Service Center
625 E County Road Y Suite 700
Oshkosh, WI 54901-9731

Thursday October 19, 2006, 3-8pm
WDNR Northeast Region Headquarters
2984 Shawano Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54307-0448

Thank you for your interest in the Peshtigo River State Forest Master Planning process. I look forward to hearing your comments and working with you to make the PRSF one of Wisconsin's greatest state forests!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Mertz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Dan Mertz, State Forest Superintendent